

in the various branches of literature and science, upon sound religious principles.

Moved by Mr. James Williamson, seconded by Francis A. Harper, Esq.,

Resolved, that this meeting pledge themselves by every means and exertions in their power to forward the views and intentions of Synod.

Moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Joseph Bruce, Esq.,

Resolved, that a committee of six be appointed, with power to add to their number, to collect subscriptions from members of the congregation and others friendly to the proposed institution, and to exert themselves in such way as may best promote its successful completion.

Moved by J. A. Macdonald, Esq., seconded by Rev. Mr. Reid,

Resolved, that the committee consist of Messrs. F. A. Harper, A. Pringle, John Roy, Robert Matthews, Thomas Greer and R. M. Rose.

The meeting was addressed by the following gentlemen successively on the importance of the subject and the necessity of the college being immediately proceeded with: The Rev. Messrs. Gordon and Reid, Major Logie, Thomas Greer, James Williamson and Thomas Wilson, Esquires.

JOHN MACHAR,
Chairman.

R. M. ROSE,
Secretary.

It was moved by Thomas Greer, Esq., seconded by Mr. James Williamson, that the Rev. Mr. Machar do now leave the chair, and F. A. Harper, Esq., be called thereto; which being done, it was moved by J. A. Macdonald, Esq., seconded by J. Mowat, Esq., and carried unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Machar for his able conduct in the chair.

Moved by J. A. Macdonald, Esq., seconded by Thomas Greer, Esq., and carried unanimously, that the Rev. Mr. Machar be requested to furnish a copy of his opening address to the meeting for publication.

F. A. HARPER,
Chairman.

R. M. ROSE,
Secretary.

The chairman opened the meeting in a very able address and nearly to the following effect:

We are now met, my friends, to put our hand to a work in which we trust we may say without any approach to irreverence, that God hath put it into the hearts of our brethren and us to engage. The establishment of a University in which, while one of its most important objects will be the training up of ministers of the Gospel to supply the long-crying destitution of this land, there will be given to our youth the fullest access to the cultivation of all the branches of a literary and scientific education.

Universities, as you know, are establishments of no recent date. They have long existed among the noblest blessings of those lands from which we draw our descent. After the Reformation, it was one of the very earliest cares of those who had been instrumental in the introduction of that glorious era of light and liberty, to increase the number of universities in their several lands, and to give them all possible efficiency. Learning had, under God, been of the highest service to them in ac-

complishing their great work. It had enabled them to bring forth the truth of God from under the mass of corruptions under which it had long been buried, and they knew that it would ever be the handmaid of that truth, rendering it the most efficient service. They were anxious, therefore, to foster learning by every institution which appeared best fitted to cherish its growth, and in their anxiety for this they very early turned their attention both to the improvement of the Universities already existing and to the erection of new ones. In engaging in our present undertaking, then, we are following the footsteps of our most venerated fathers; and however much we may to our loss have departed from some of their good old ways, sure we are that could their spirits be present with us now they would not deem that we acted, in this work at least, in a manner unworthy of an ancestry of which we may sometimes vainly boast.

We do not enter upon this work, however, merely because of its being recommended to us by the authority of so venerable an example, but because of the great benefits which we are persuaded will, under the divine blessing, arise from it to this rising country, in which it is matter of universal lamentation that so little has hitherto been done in the cause of education. To give anything like a full enumeration of these benefits would lead us into a field too wide for expatiating upon at this time, and we therefore narrow our view to a few of the more important. The great spiritual destitution of this country is too well known to all here to require me to enlarge upon it. To supply this is one important object of our proposed institution; and the hope is fondly indulged that, with the blessing of God upon the means that will be put in operation for duly qualifying ministers of the Gospel to preach the Word of Life throughout all our borders, the day is not far off when the destitution, now so painfully felt wherever we turn our eyes, will be remedied, and this land which, spiritually, is now a howling wilderness converted into a pleasant garden. But important as the institution would be if it merely embraced this object, we look forward to other advantages to arise from it, the prospect of which should give it the strongest claims upon our support. Need I speak of its importance to the lawyer and to the physician? It is here that they will have an opportunity of making those acquirements and of forming those habits which will enable them to enter with the fullest advantage upon the study of their respective professions. Nor is it only to persons destined for the liberal professions that it will be important; it will open up important advantages to all, whatever is to be their after walk of life, who can avail themselves of them. Here our youth will have access given them to the vast and invaluable stores of ancient and modern learning. Here the mysteries of natural science will be unfolded, and an acquaintance with the useful arts obtained. Here the sources of a nation's wealth will be explained, and the mind directed to the right and sacred means of its development. Here what is good and beautiful in morals will be pointed out and recommended.

Here the taste will be improved by the study of its principles, and by familiarity with its best and purest models—with the works of those who have touched all kinds of writing and spread a charm over all.